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A smoker speaks his mind

Ah! The ecstasy of another big effort by the American Cancer Society to interfere in the life of the individual, to stop them from smoking. A non-smoking society by the year 2000 — hogwash!

By the year 2000, the American Cancer Society will be out of existence, as donors will be sick of donating their hard-earned money to a group that has failed to find a cure for cancer. I suggest that the society devote its efforts to cure a real killer — alcohol.

The so-called lily-white members of our society have their basements filled with precious bottles of whisky, wine and beer, yet no effort is made to stop this outrageous so-called form of hospitality. How many are so full of booze that they find it hard to navigate to their daily jobs without killing someone? What about the long list of drunken drivers in our daily paper? They are let loose with a fine, but are killers as well as those who use guns. Cigaret advertising is banned on television, yet the merry boys who suck their beer and wine are applauded. What an example for the youth of our nation!

According to Quide Pamerleau of the Connecticut Medical School: "Smoking can wipe out fatigue, improve performance, reduce anxiety, improve memory and deliver a number of other significant and pleasurable effects." And this from a professor at a medical school!

So please, stop butting into our private lives; it is enough that the government tells us what to do in a free society.

How about a nice campaign against alcohol? If anything should be taxed heavily, it should be alcohol — to keep drunken drivers from killing our children and senior citizens.

I'm tired of having a guilt penalty hung on me every time I light up. Smoking is a part of the lifestyle I want, until I die of tobacco addiction, traffic accident, atomic war, or old age.

Shorewood L. LANGE

APnc 12/16 0254 Whitley-Tobacco Institute

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Outgoing U.S. Rep. Charles O. Whitley, who for 10 years has represented a tobacco growing district in North Carolina, may go to work for The Tobacco Institute.

Whitley, contacted at his home in Mount Olive, confirmed that he had been in Washington talking to The Tobacco Institute about the possibility of working as a part-time consultant. The institute is an industry lobbying organization based in Washington.

Brennan Moran, a spokesman for the institute, said the institute is interested in hiring Whitley.

Both Whitley and Moran said they should know definitely later this week whether the congressman will take the job.

Whitley served in Congress on the Tobacco and Peanuts Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

Whitley, a Democrat, chose not to run for re-election this year in the 3rd Congressional District, which covers Pender, Bladen, Duplin, Onslow, Sampson, Jones, Wayne, Harnett, Lee and parts of Moore and Johnston counties. Martin Lancaster of Goldsboro, also a Democrat, was elected in November to succeed Whitley.

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